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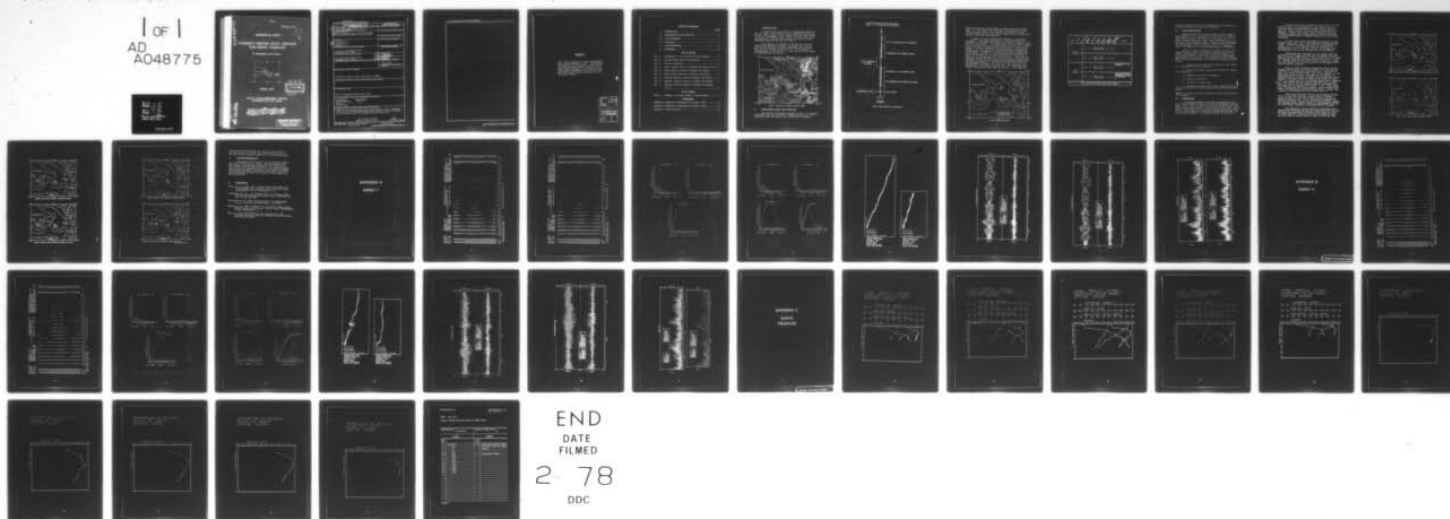
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CURRENT METER DATA REPORT FOR MONA PASSAGE.(U)
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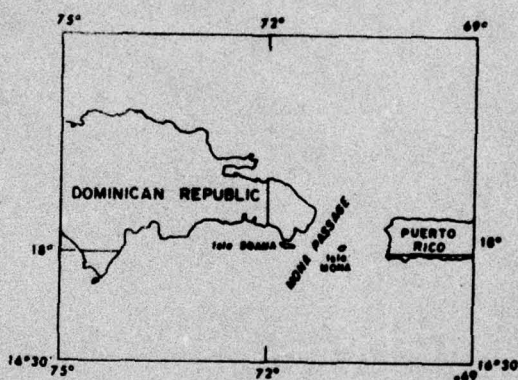
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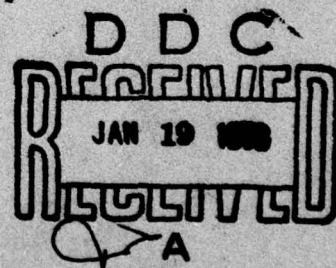
TECHNICAL NOTE

CURRENT METER DATA REPORT
FOR MONA PASSAGE

M. Bourkland and S. Dorey



APRIL 1977



NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20373

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Summarizes current measurements made in Mona Passage in 1975. Bathymetry, sound velocity-salinity-temperature-density profiles, and mean and maximum current velocity vectors at two sample levels are given. ←		

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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes current measurements made in Mona Passage in 1975. The figures included show the bathymetry, location of the current observations, location of the SVSTD stations taken at the time of array implantment (NAVOCEANO cruise 343517), and mean and maximum velocity vectors at the two sample levels.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In March 1975, the Physical Oceanography Branch of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office implanted taut-lined current meter arrays in Mona Passage from the USNS WILKES (T-AGS 33) (NAVOCEANO cruise 343517) to measure near bottom currents. Recovery was accomplished from the USNS HARKNESS (T-AGS 32) during July 1975.

Mona Passage is located in the Greater Antilles between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, and is part of the Antilles Arc which separates the Caribbean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean (Fig. 1). The Passage is approximately 114 km (62.5 mi.) wide and has a sill depth of approximately 450 meters.

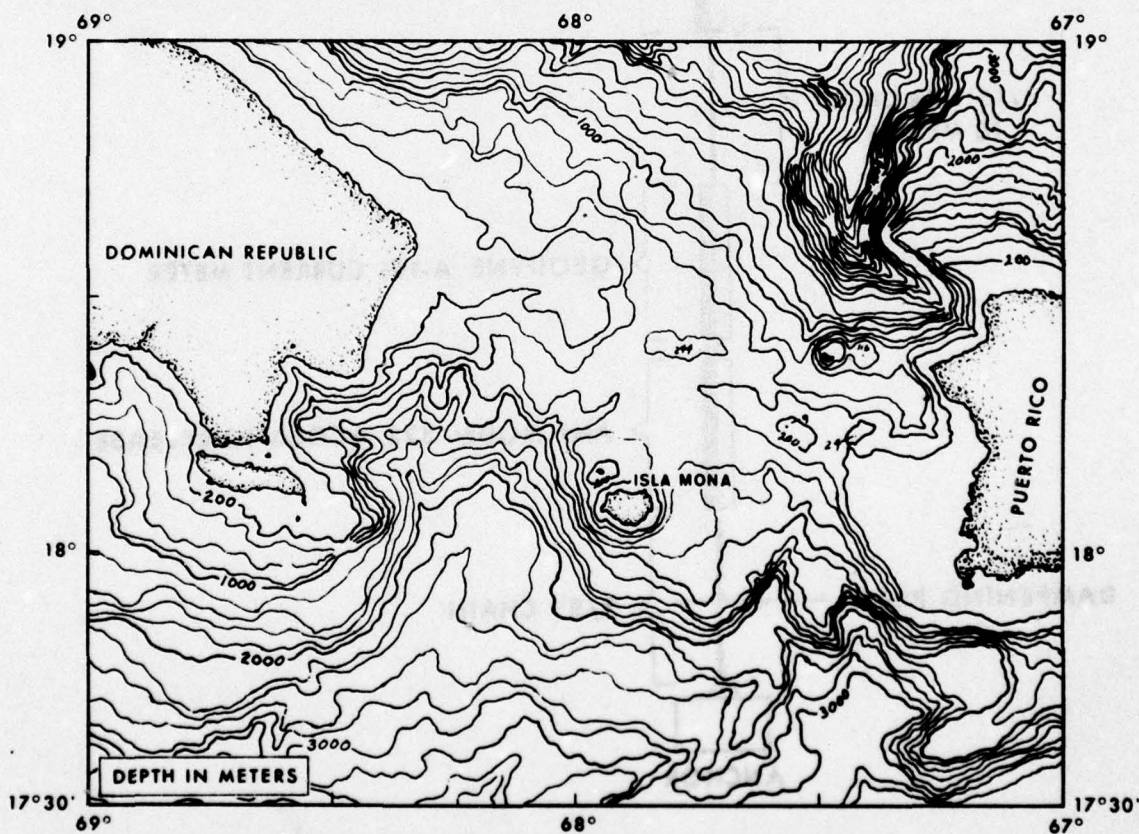


FIGURE 1. BATHYMETRY IN THE VICINITY OF MONA PASSAGE

II. INSTRUMENTATION AND SAMPLING

Five arrays (configured as shown in Fig. 2) utilizing Richardson type current meters (Geodyne model A-101) were implanted using the anchor last "free fall" technique.

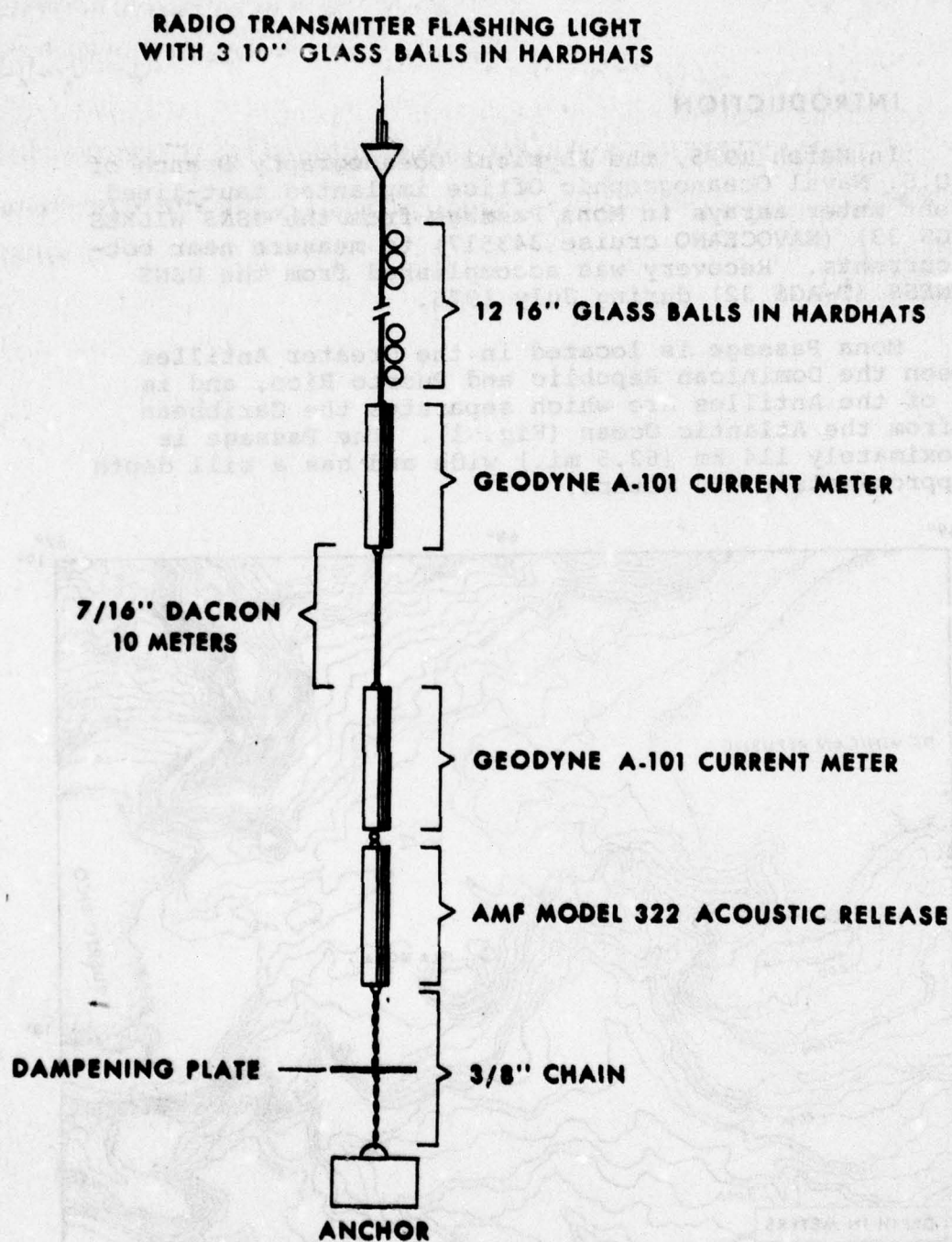


FIGURE 2. CURRENT METER ARRAY CONFIGURATION

SVSTD stations were taken near the array site after launch (Fig. 3). The arrays were deployed by streaming the glass balls, current meter, line, and the release device from the ship before cutting the anchor clump loose, allowing the array to free fall into position.

A summary of the current meter implants is presented in Table 1. The meters on array 1 ran properly from implantment to recovery. Both meters on array 4, however, had partial malfunctions. The speed sensor of meter N-413 stopped after 1098 hours of observation and the film in meter N-429 failed to advance properly after 2318 hours of observation. Arrays 2, 3, and 5 failed to surface when the releases were interrogated. Attempts to recover the arrays by grappling also failed. Failure of the releases may have been attributable to flooding due to excess corrosion on the bottom plate of the release near the 'O' ring seals. Both releases recovered showed excessive corrosion around the purging plug. Corrosion on one of the releases had progressed through the purging plug primary 'O' ring seal and was about 1/8" from the secondary or backup 'O' ring seal. The corrosion was determined to have been caused by a lack of electrical continuity between the anode and the end cap. This condition

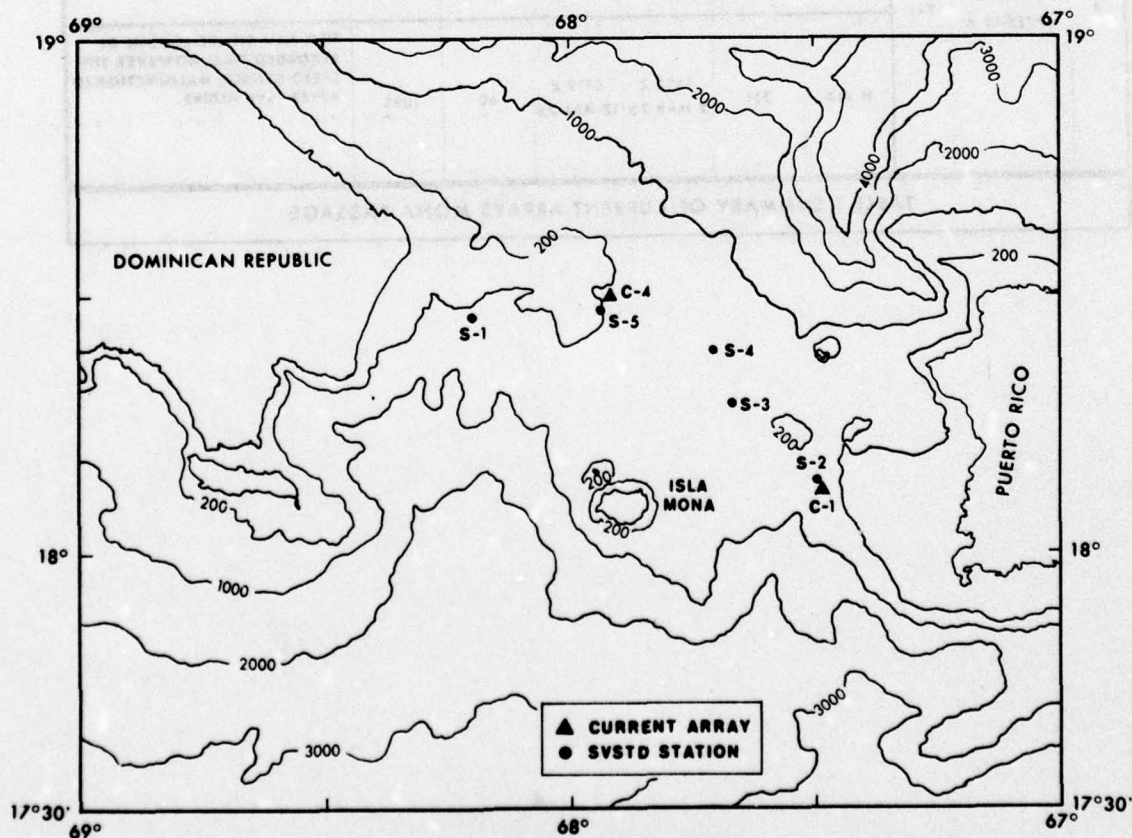


Figure 3 STATION LOCATIONS

ARRAY	POSITION	WATER DEPTH (m)	CURRENT METER S/N	METER DEPTH (m)	METER DATA STARTS	METER DATA ENDS	SAMPLING INTERVAL (MINUTES)	TOTAL USABLE RECORD (HOURS)	REMARKS
1	18°07.08'N 67°29.07'W	405	N 434	385	2025 Z 2 MAR 75	1640 Z 14 JUL 75	60	3212	
			N 128	395	2025 Z 2 MAR 75	1640 Z 14 JUL 75	60	3212	
4	18°30.3'N 67°55.10'W	341	N 429	321	1905 Z 2 MAR 75	0819 Z 7 JUN 75	60	2318	METER MALFUNCTION AFTER 2318 HOURS
			N 413	331	1405 Z 2 MAR 75	0719 Z 17 APR 75	60	1098	FILM RAN ENTIRE LENGTH OF RECORDED TIME; HOWEVER THE SPEED SENSOR MALFUNCTIONED AFTER 1098 HOURS.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF CURRENT ARRAYS MONA PASSAGE

has been rectified and all instruments are now checked for continuity before the arrays are launched.

III. DATA PROCESSING

Geodyne model A-101 current meters record compass, vane, speed and tilt information on 100' rolls of 16mm photographic film as described by Richardson, et al (1963). Films recovered from the meters were developed at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL). They were then processed through an Optical Data Converter (OPDAC) which translates the photographic code to binary data on 1/2" magnetic tape. The OPDAC is an in-house development of NAVOCEANO.

Magnetic tapes created by the OPDAC were then processed through a series of FORTRAN language routines on a UNIVAC 1108 computer to produce a final data tape of current observations from which all statistical and graphic presentations are derived. The appendices A and B contain the following presentations of the data collected on these arrays:

- a. Bivariate distribution of speed (4 cm/sec interval) and direction (10° intervals).
- b. Cumulative speed distribution (cm/sec vs cumulative frequency).
- c. Speed and direction histograms.
- d. Speed vs time plot.
- e. V_e and V_n vs time plot.
- f. Progressive vector plot (shows relative motion during time span as a single particle of water thru a fixed point).

Appendix C contains SVSTD profiles and temperature-salinity (T-S) graphs.

IV. DISCUSSION

A literature search on subsurface currents in the area of Mona Passage reveals that few measurements have been made. Wüst (1964) discusses the general circulation in the Antillean-Caribbean Basins, but not specifically Mona Passage. Wüst's report does show a tendency for the surface currents to flow in a northerly direction through Mona Passage, and that a slight change in circulation occurs in the Fall.

Surface flow charts created for an Atlantic Surface Current Atlas, to be published by this Office show the northern edge of the Caribbean current flowing westerly past the southern shore of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Some of this water mass bifurcates and flows northward through Mona Passage where it may be entrained by the Antilles Current, thereby resuming its flow to the northwest.

A series of current measurements conducted in Mona Passage in the fall of 1972 are reported by Burns and Car (1975). These data show a mean flow of approximately 14 cm/sec (Fig. 4). The maximum observed currents show a northeasterly flow on the east side of the passage and a southwesterly flow on the western side of the passage.

Subsurface data contained in this report show the northward flow through the east side of passage continues down to the sill depth where it has a mean flow of 10 cm/sec between Mona Isle and the Puerto Rican coast (Figs. 5 and 6). Between Mona Isle and the Dominican Republic, however, the mean bottom flow is southward into the Caribbean at a rate of nearly 20 cm/sec.

Both our data and those presented by Burns and Car suggest there exists a horizontal shear zone that extends northward or northeastward from Mona Isle. According to Wüst, the inflow on the western side of the passage is the subtropical undercurrent. The core of this current is characterized by a salinity maximum near 36.9‰ which occurs between 80 and 200 meters as shown by the SVSTD stations taken in conjunction with the current meter arrays (Appendix C). Near bottom maximum currents observed show a strong flow (40 cm/sec) for the eastern side of the passage and 80 cm/sec for the western side (Figs. 7 & 8). This agrees with the Burns and Car data, although their maximum flow shows a northeasterly-southwesterly direction rather than northerly and southerly as in our data (Fig. 9).

Wüst reports maximum flow of the Caribbean Current to be in June and July and a minimum flow in October. Since the data in this report were collected during the period of maximum flow, it can therefore be assumed that the maximum bottom currents would not significantly exceed the observed 80-85 cm/sec currents on the western side and 40 to 50 cm/sec currents on the east side of the pass.

The definition of the location of the shear zone between the inflowing subtropical undercurrent and the outflow and the magnitude of the shear would require a grid of SVSTD stations extending north and northeast of Mona Isle and several current meters arrays in the grid area

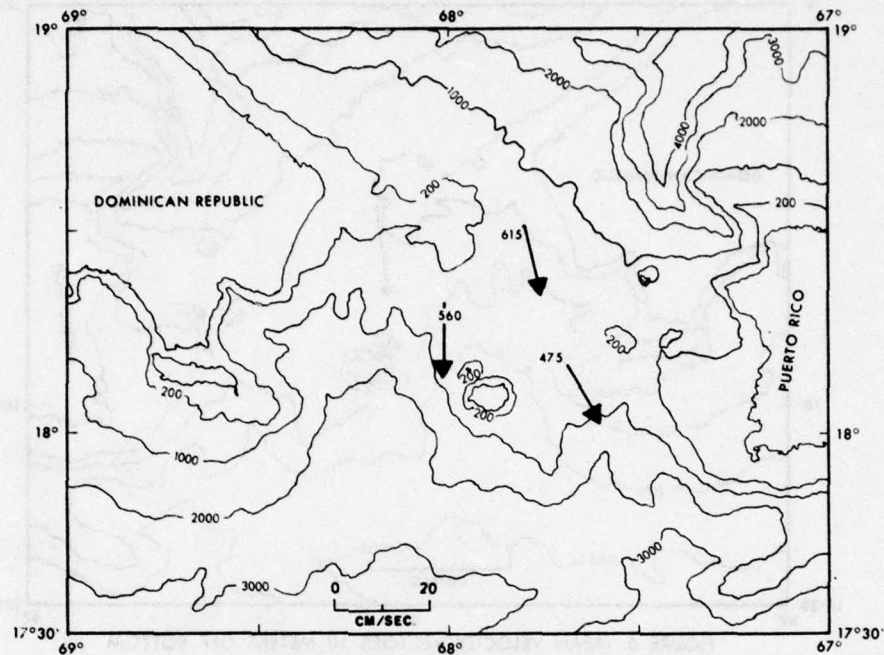


FIGURE 4. MEAN VELOCITY VECTORS 10 METERS OFF BOTTOM (BURNS AND CAR 1972)

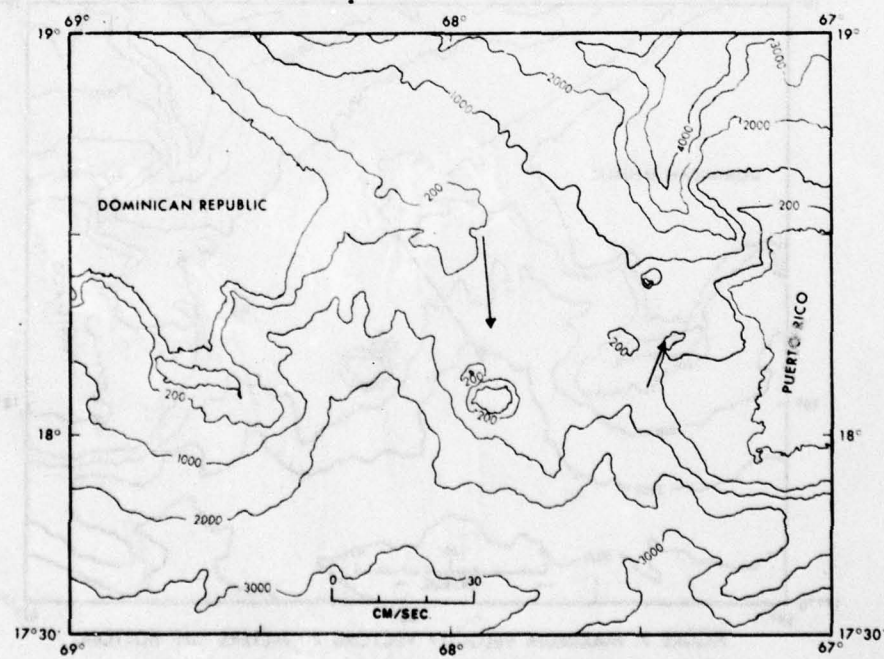


FIGURE 5. MEAN VELOCITY VECTORS 20 METERS OFF BOTTOM

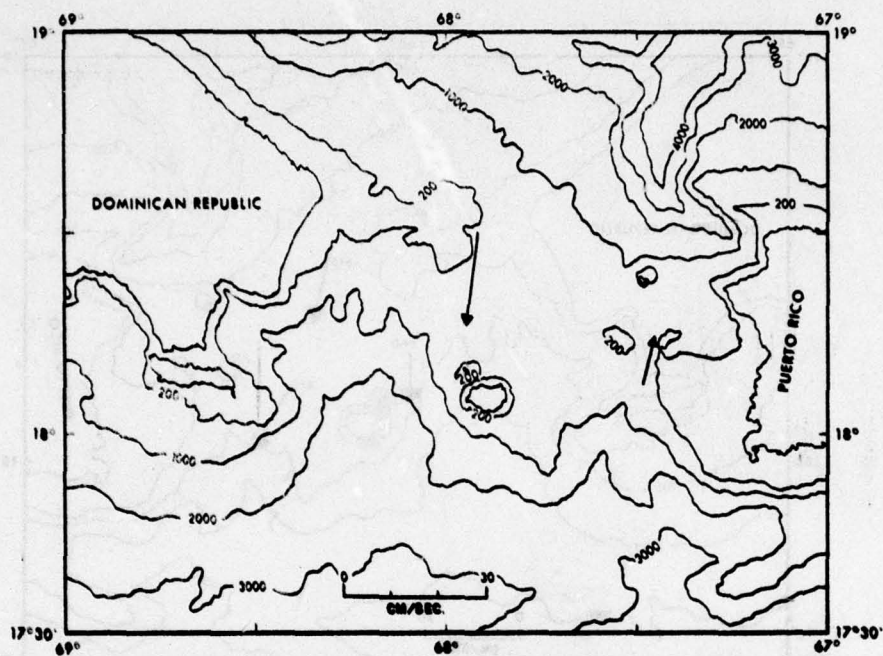


FIGURE 6. MEAN VELOCITY VECTORS 10 METERS OFF BOTTOM

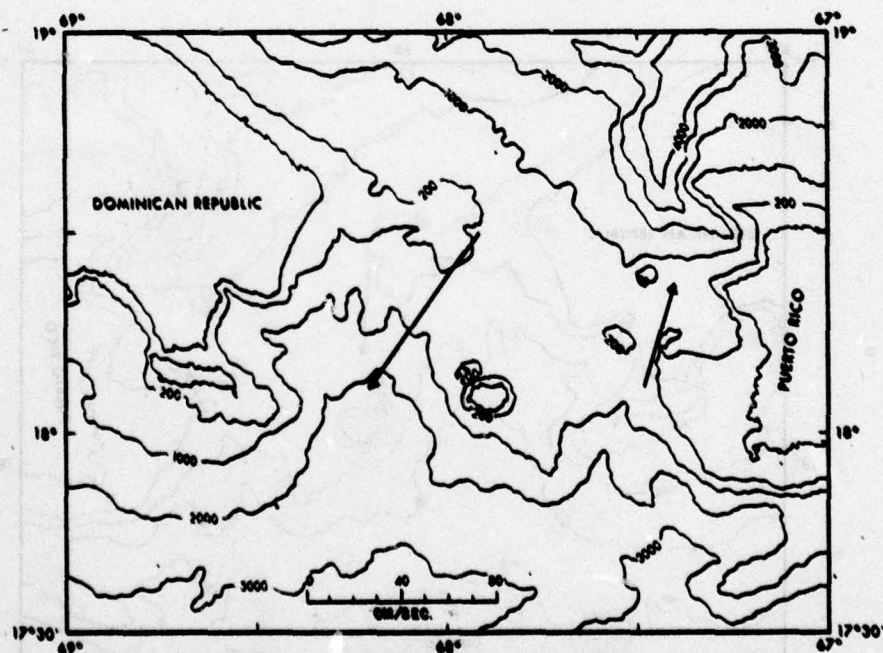


FIGURE 7. MAXIMUM VELOCITY VECTORS 20 METERS OFF BOTTOM

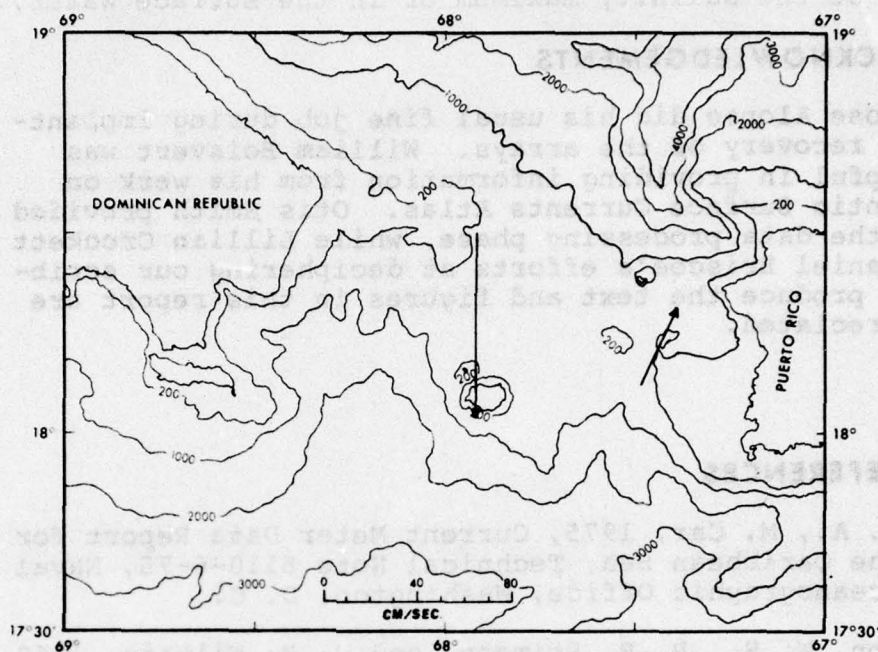


FIGURE 8. MAXIMUM VELOCITY VECTOR 10 METERS OFF BOTTOM

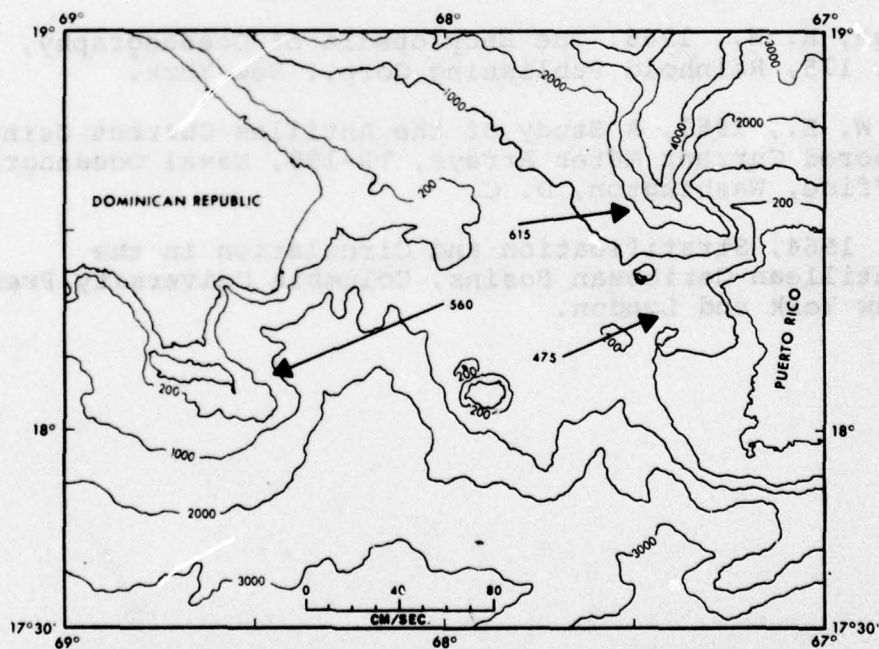


FIGURE 9. MAXIMUM VELOCITY VECTORS 10 METERS OFF BOTTOM
(BURNS AND CAR 1972)

with meters spaced between the surface and the bottom. Maximum velocities through the passage should occur in the area of the salinity maximum or in the surface water.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jose Alonso did his usual fine job during implantment and recovery of the arrays. William Boisvert was most helpful in providing information from his work on the Atlantic Surface Currents Atlas. Otis Smith provided help in the data processing phase, while Lillian Crockett and Nathaniel Briscoe's efforts at deciphering our scribbling to produce the text and figures in this report are most appreciated.

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APPENDIX A

ARRAY 1

MEAN SPEED 10-10 CM/SEC
 MEAN DIRECTION 22.42 DEGREES TRUE
 MEDIAN SPEED 9.20 CM/SEC
 MAXIMUM SPEED 45.00 CM/SEC
 DIRECTION OF MAXIMUM 17.30 DEGREES TRUE
 STANDARD DEVIATION 6.79 CM/SEC

METER ON 19742 02 MAR 1975
 PLANTED 20202 02 MAR
 FIRST FRAME IN FILE 20242 02 MAR
 RECOVERED 16002 14 JUL 1975

METER DEPTH 305 M
 WATER DEPTH 405 M
 VARIATION 0 M
 CALCULATED FRAMES 3212
 FRAMES RECORDED 3212
 60 MINUTE OBSERVATIONS

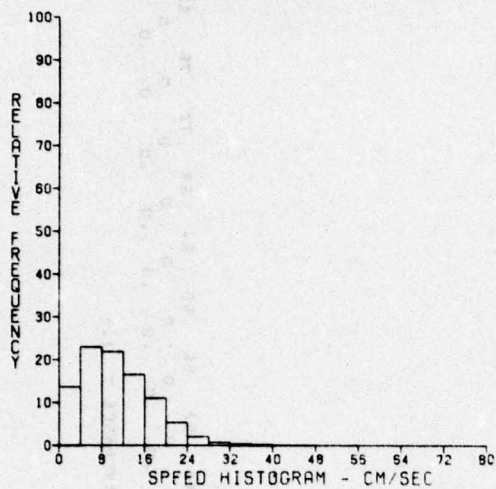
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 10 07.05 W
 07 2 0.07 W
 AMW 1
 CH W-43
 SORBL 12B

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30-40	12	52	00	70	65	35	13	5	2	1	1	344	10.7
40-50	15	03	05	09	00	20	12	5	1	1	2	225	7.0
50-60	18	38	32	32	22	0	5	3	1	2	1	161	5.0
60-70	19	19	21	25	6	3	3	2	1	1	1	96	3.0
70-80	19	19	19	18	6	1	2	2	1	1	1	86	1.7
80-90	6	16	12	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	36	1.1
90-100	11	20	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	37	1.2
100-110	13	22	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	33	1.0
110-120	9	15	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	42	1.3
120-130	0	10	9	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	36	1.1
130-140	16	16	15	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	33	1.0
140-150	15	13	17	10	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	51	1.6
150-160	15	21	22	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	61	1.9
160-170	14	20	28	11	3	6	2	2	1	1	1	77	2.4
170-180	8	20	23	10	8	7	4	3	1	1	1	88	2.7
180-190	13	23	30	16	12	2	4	3	1	1	1	79	2.5
190-200	17	25	29	25	13	5	2	1	1	1	1	101	3.1
200-210	13	19	27	22	9	9	4	1	1	1	1	117	3.6
210-220	6	19	24	24	9	5	1	1	1	1	1	105	3.3
220-230	6	20	20	18	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	75	2.3
230-240	11	21	9	8	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	60	1.9
240-250	13	11	10	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	42	1.3
250-260	6	13	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	31	1.0
260-270	6	11	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	26	.8
270-280	10	15	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	30	.9
280-290	5	2	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	12	.4
290-300	13	5	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	19	.6
300-310	11	12	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	25	.8
310-320	14	8	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	31	1.0
320-330	14	19	41	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	28	.9
330-340	15	25	23	9	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	50	1.6
340-350	11	34	36	26	7	4	2	1	1	1	1	88	2.7
350-360	22	32	46	53	37	18	7	1	1	1	1	161	5.0
360-370	22	32	46	53	37	18	7	1	1	1	1	218	6.8

SPEED 3 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 68 72 76 80
 SUM 430 739 703 531 353 171 66 22 10 7 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 PER C. 13.6 23.0 21.9 16.5 11.0 5.3 2.1 .7 .3 .2 .0 .0 .0 .0 .0 .0 .0 .0 .0 .0

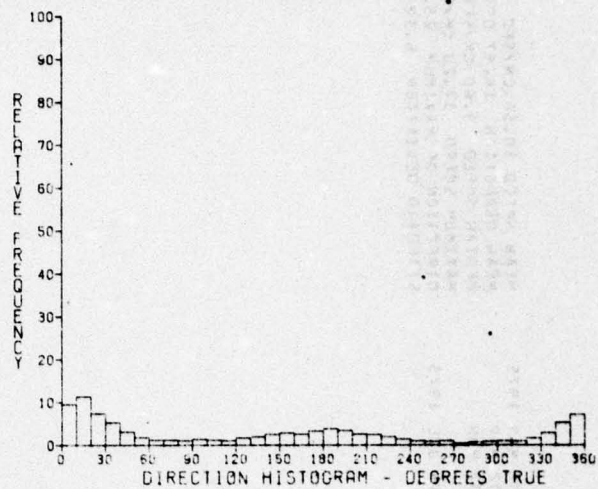
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TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 3211



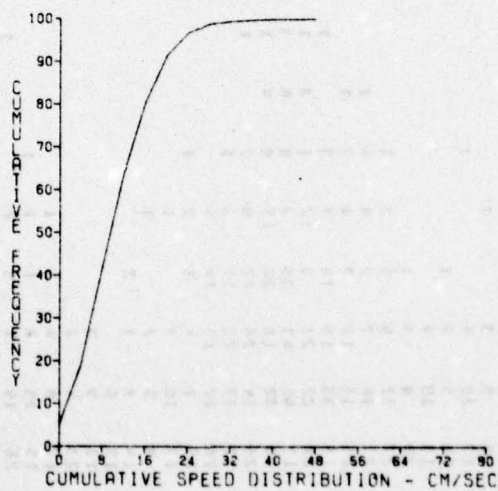
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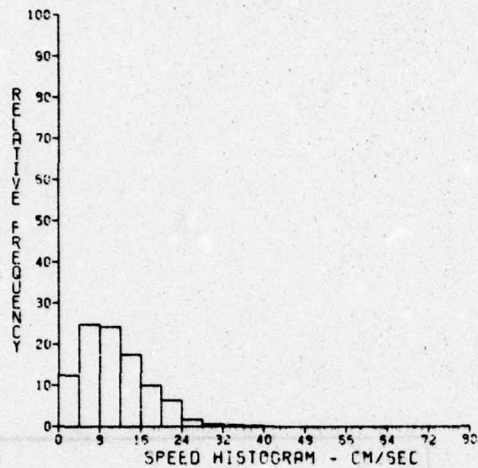
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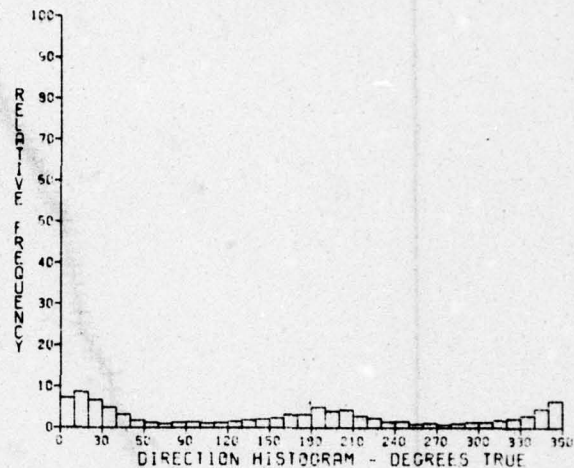
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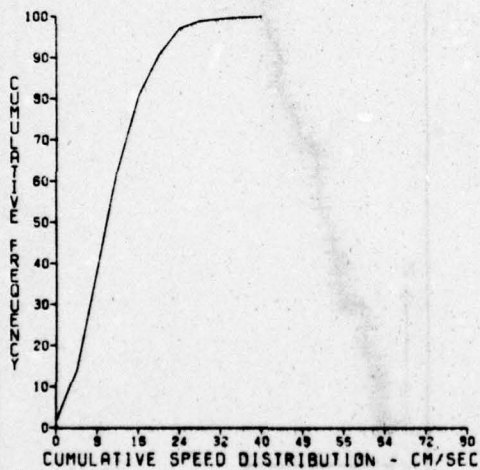
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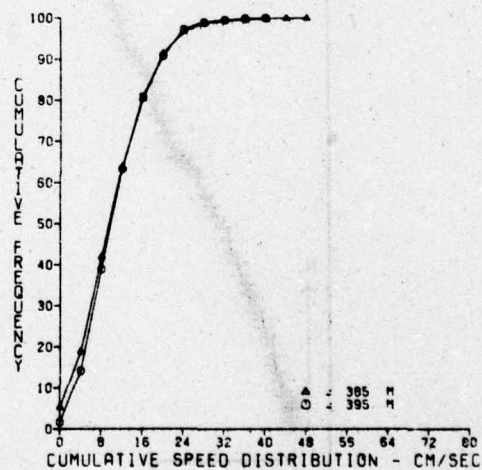


MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 1 DEPTH 395 M

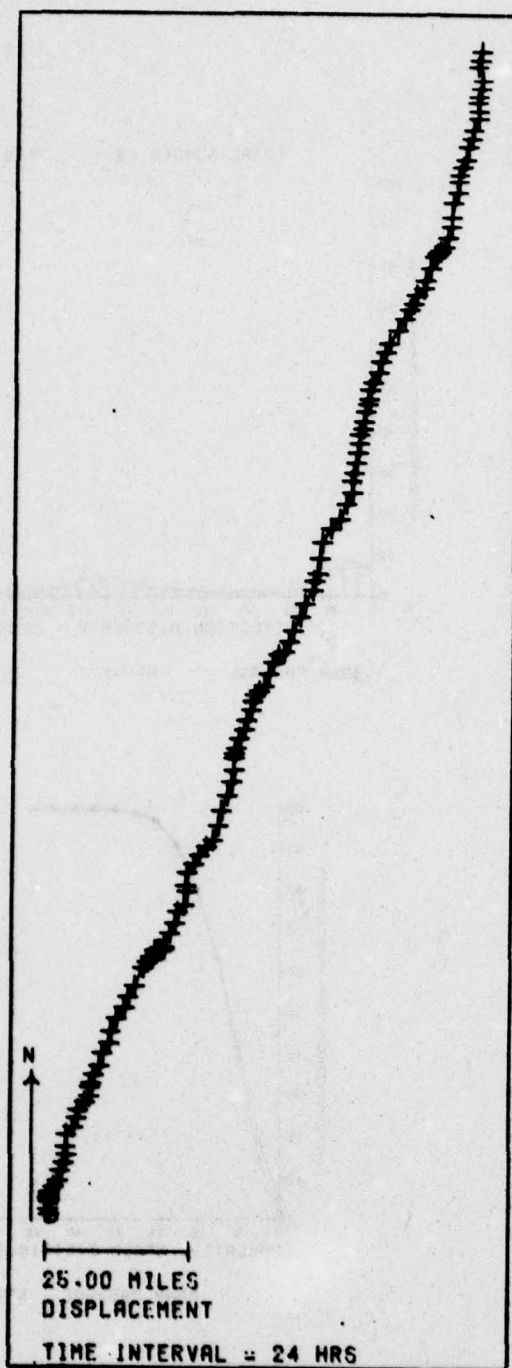
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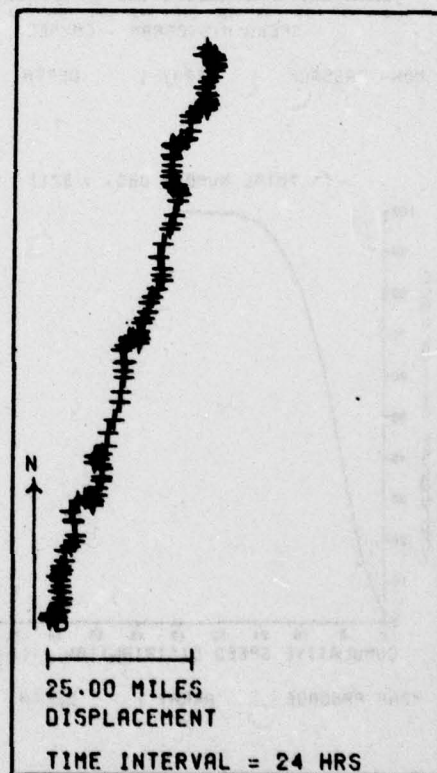
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 1 DEPTH 395 M



MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 1

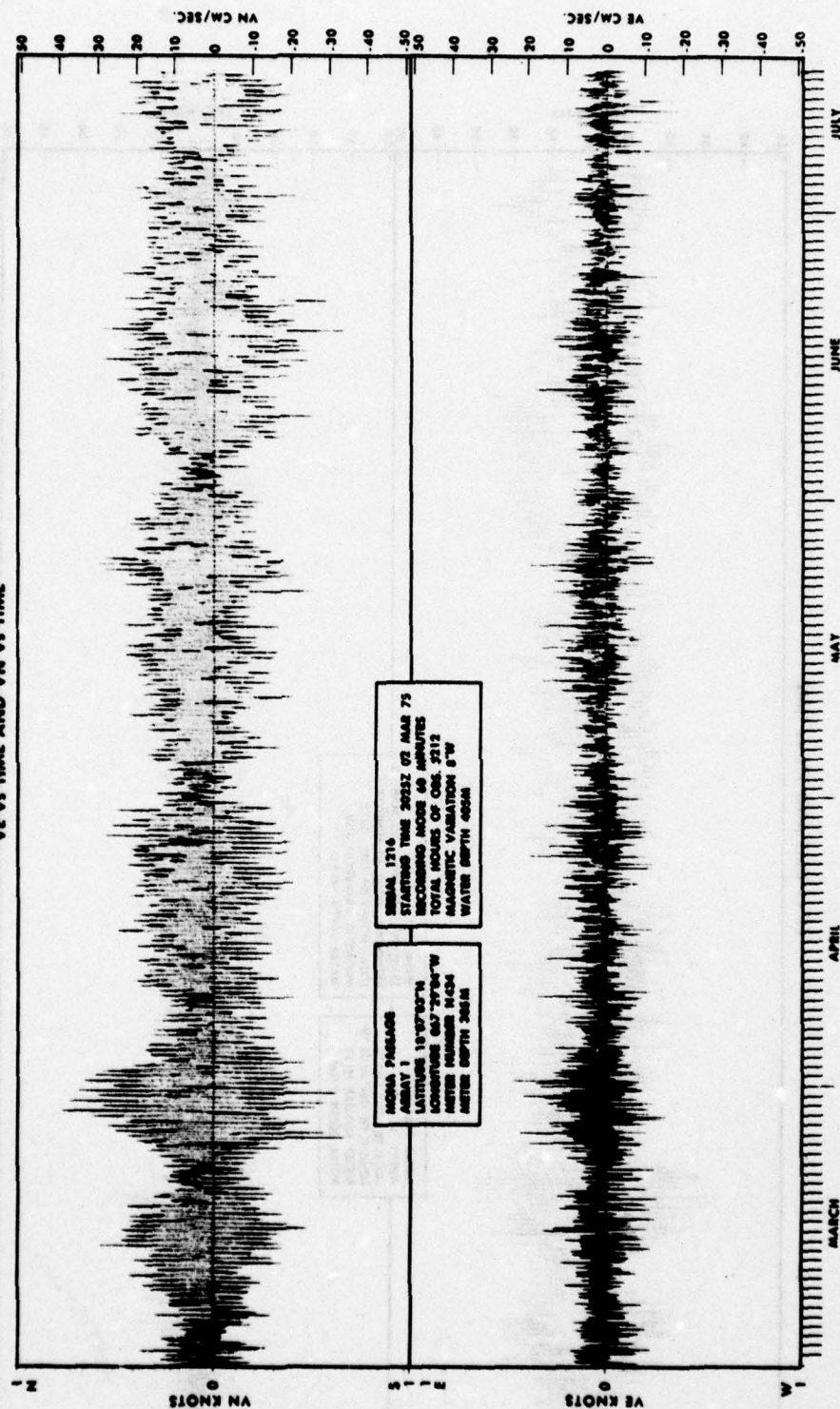


**CRUISE MONA PASS
STATION 1 TOP
METER N434
DEPTH 385 METERS**

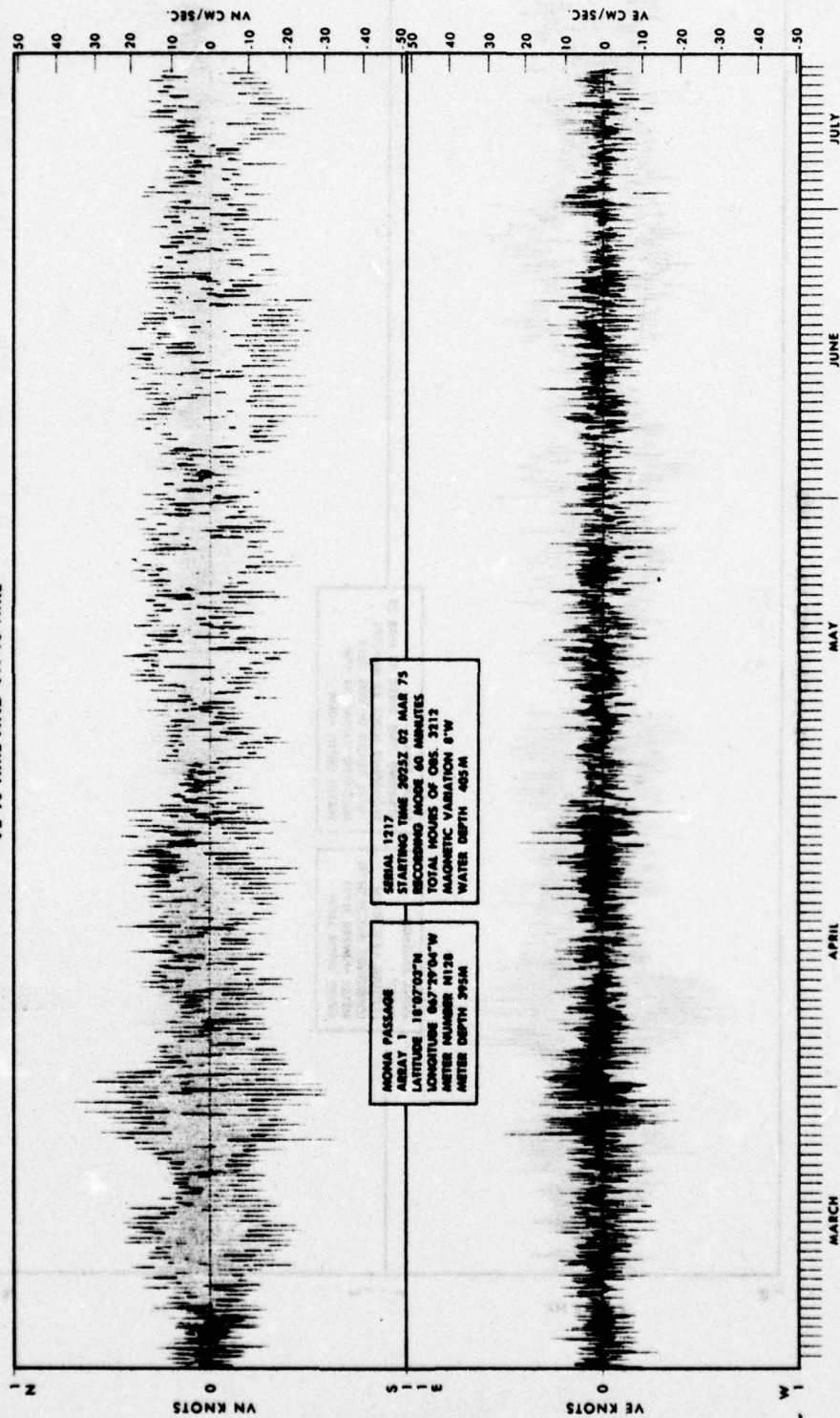


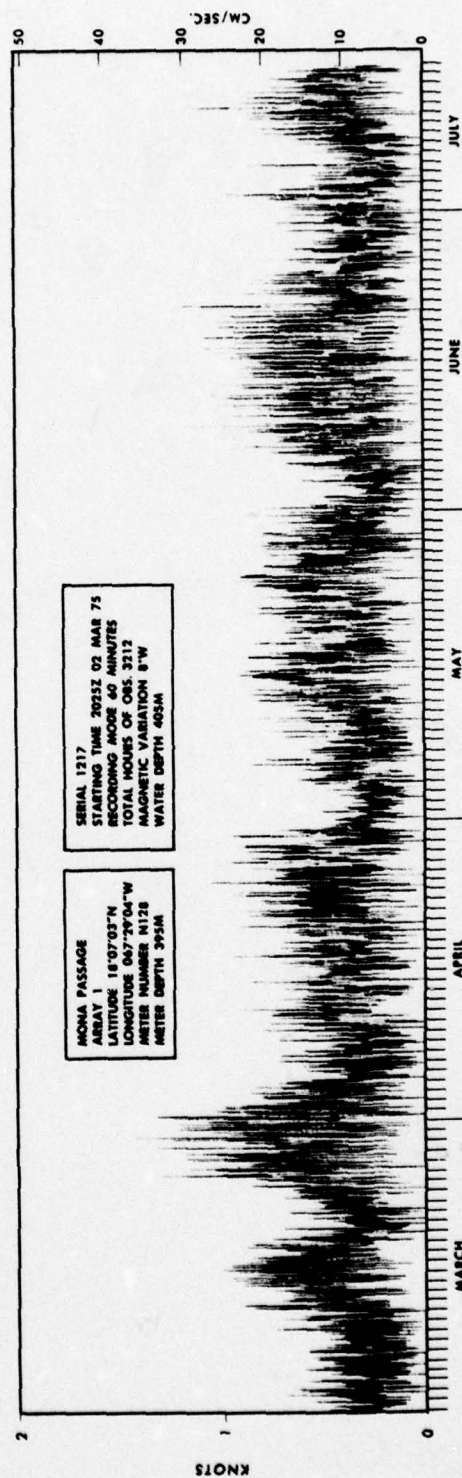
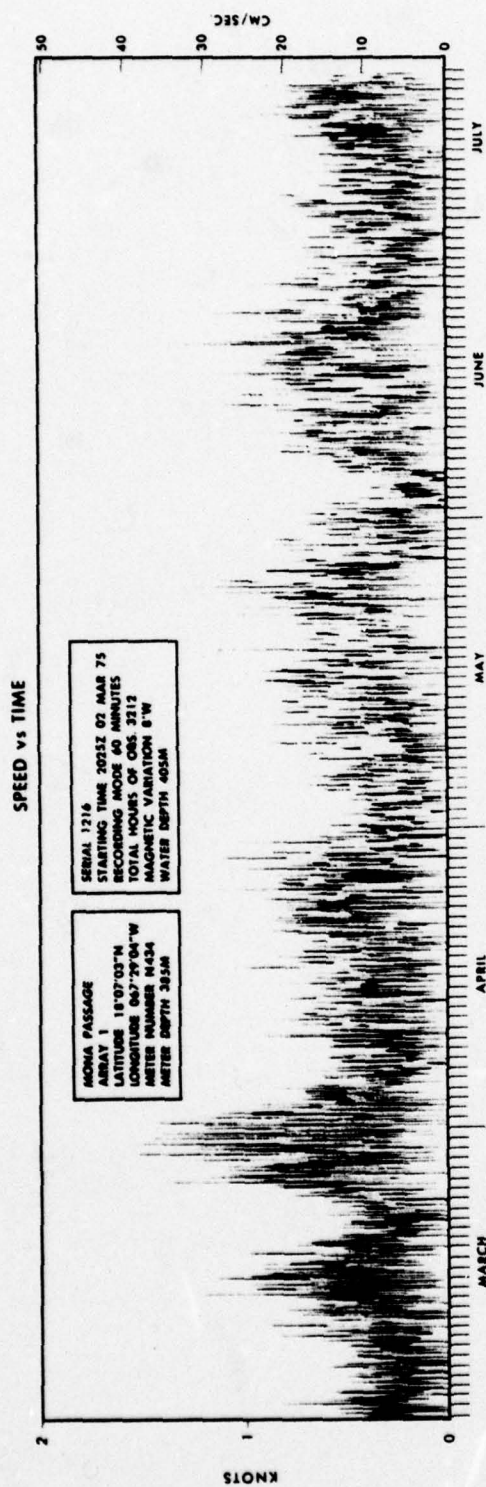
**CRUISE MONA PASS
STATION 1 LOW
METER N128
DEPTH 395 METERS**

VE vs TIME AND VN vs TIME



VE vs TIME AND VN vs TIME





APPENDIX B

ARRAY 4

MONA PASSAGE
18 30.03 N
67 55.10 W
ARRIVAL
CN N-428
SERIAL 1238

METER ON 1205Z 02 MAR 1975
PLANTED 1319Z 02 MAR
FIRST FRAME IN FILE 1905Z 02 MAR
RECOVERED 1755Z 12 JUL 1975

METER DEPTH 321 M
WATER DEPTH 341 M
VARIATION 8 M
CALCULATED FRAMES 3172
FRAMES RECORDED 2318
60 MINUTE OBSERVATIONS

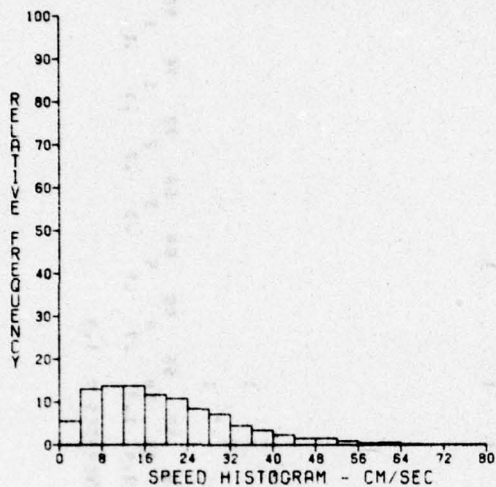
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MEAN DIRECTION 175.47 DEGREES TRUE
MEDIAN SPEED 17.20 CM/SEC
MAXIMUM SPEED 79.90 CM/SEC
DIRECTION OF MAXIMUM 215.60 DEGREES TRUE
STANDARD DEVIATION 12.94 CM/SEC

0-10	1	9	11	14	18	23	13	13	14	10	6	5	4	2	1	131	5.7
10-20	3	12	22	15	13	13	15	10	5	2	1	3	1	1	1	104	4.5
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30-40	4	7	12	8	11	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	57	2.5
40-50	6	14	8	10	8	6	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	56	2.4
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80-90	5	5	3	4	5	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	22	.9
90-100	8	11	4	4	3	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	39	1.7
100-110	9	9	5	3	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	26	1.1
110-120	2	4	6	5	1	2	4	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	29	1.3
120-130	4	8	10	6	5	4	5	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	50	2.2
130-140	5	9	8	6	2	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	47	2.0
140-150	1	5	8	13	8	8	9	4	4	4	3	1	1	1	1	66	2.8
150-160	8	6	9	9	8	9	11	6	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	77	3.3
160-170	2	8	16	15	12	12	7	6	4	4	6	1	1	1	1	90	3.9
170-180	4	13	16	11	11	5	7	8	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	96	4.1
180-190	2	5	9	20	16	16	12	13	8	7	8	2	3	2	1	124	5.4
190-200	6	6	13	8	5	20	15	13	14	9	3	8	5	6	2	138	6.0
200-210	6	10	16	15	15	18	15	17	13	8	10	2	2	2	2	153	6.6
210-220	3	8	12	7	7	11	11	12	9	9	6	3	5	5	1	102	4.4
220-230	3	8	10	11	9	14	5	12	10	4	1	1	1	1	1	94	4.1
230-240	1	5	8	3	10	7	4	2	1	4	3	3	3	3	1	54	2.3
240-250	6	3	5	8	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	33	1.4
250-260	1	4	3	3	5	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	20	.9
260-270	5	12	9	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	1.5
270-280	1	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	.5
280-290	4	6	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	.8
290-300	3	9	1	6	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	23	1.0
300-310	3	4	5	4	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	25	1.1
310-320	4	7	9	5	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	1.5
320-330	6	14	3	9	8	6	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	49	2.1
330-340	2	12	7	16	10	13	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	69	3.0
340-350	4	13	10	14	16	8	9	7	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	89	3.8
350-360	3	11	9	16	17	12	13	16	4	4	6	3	2	1	1	118	5.1

SPEED 0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 68 72 76 80
SUM 129 301 387 318 269 248 194 166 105 80 55 35 35 20 9 12 5 2 2 2 2
PER CT. 5.6 13.0 13.7 13.7 11.6 10.7 8.4 7.2 4.5 3.5 2.4 1.5 .8 .4 .5 .2 .1 .1 .1 .1

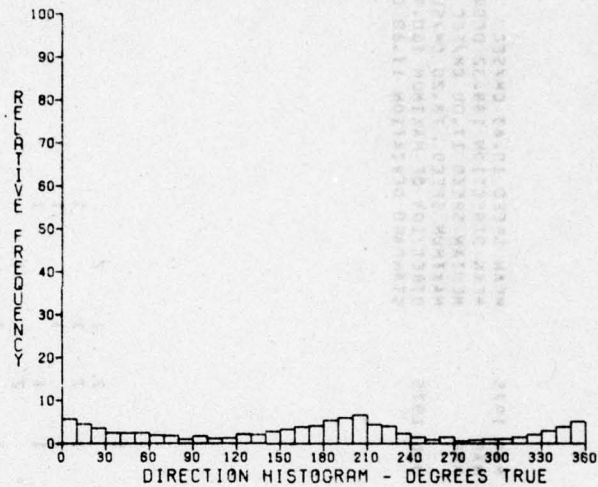
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TOTAL NUMBER OF OBS. = 2317
PERCENTAGE ZERO SPEED AVERAGES = .6

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 2317



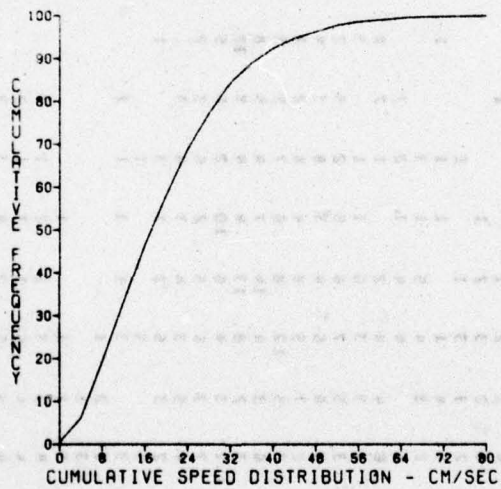
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 321 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 2304



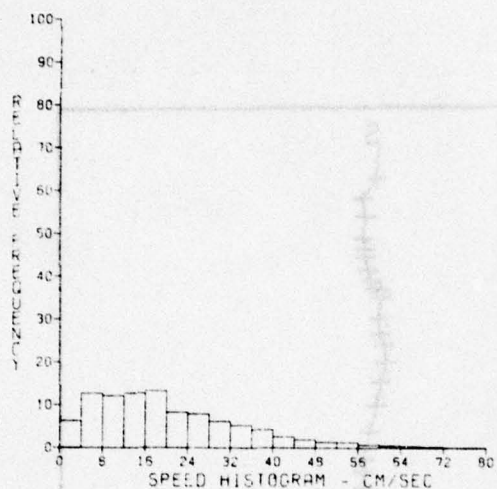
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 321 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 2317



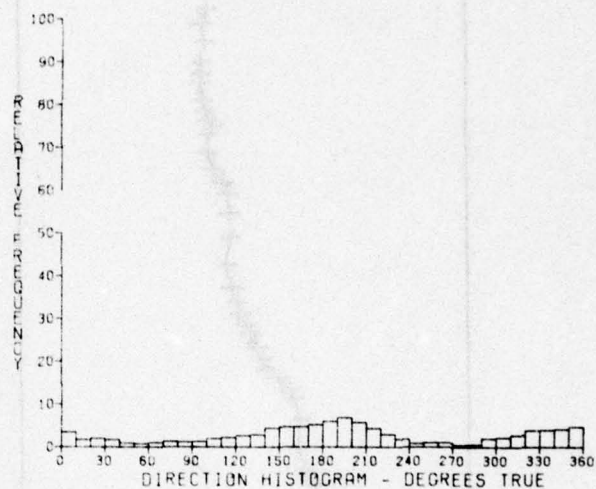
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 321 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 1097



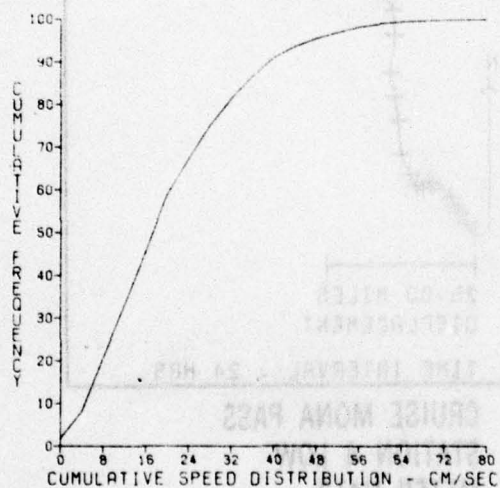
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 331 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 1077

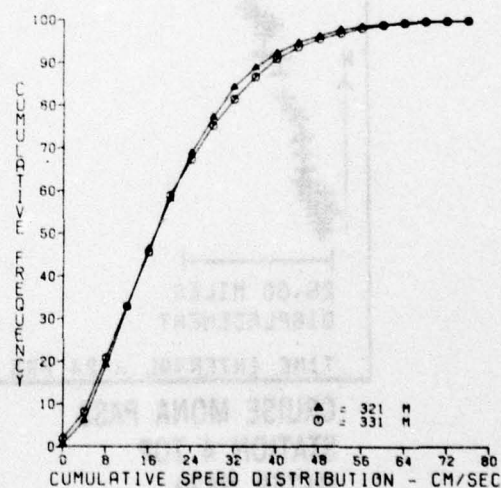


MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 331 M

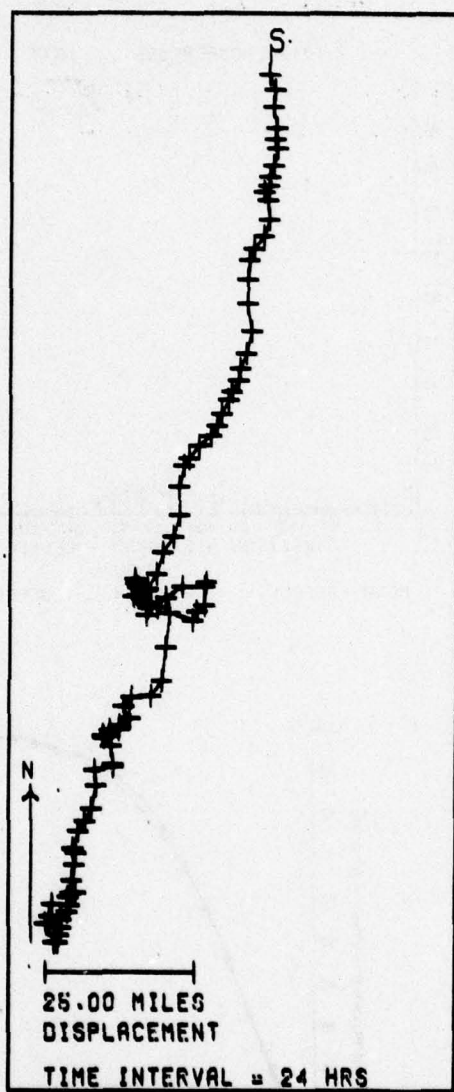
TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 1097



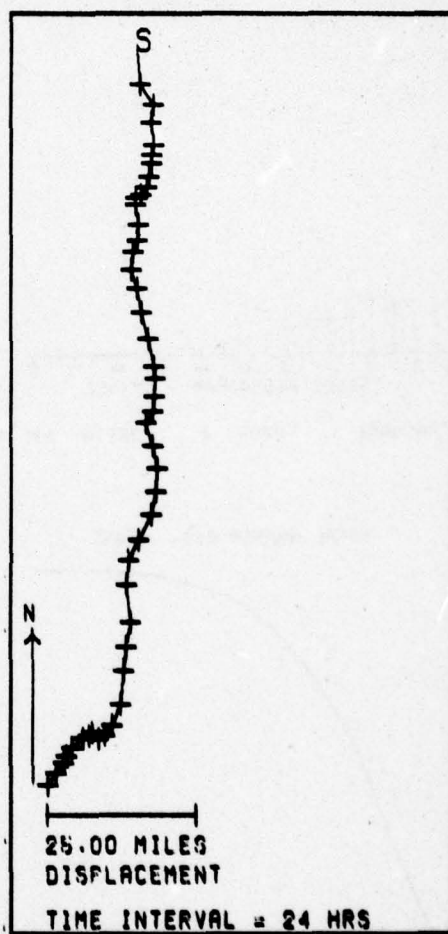
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 331 M



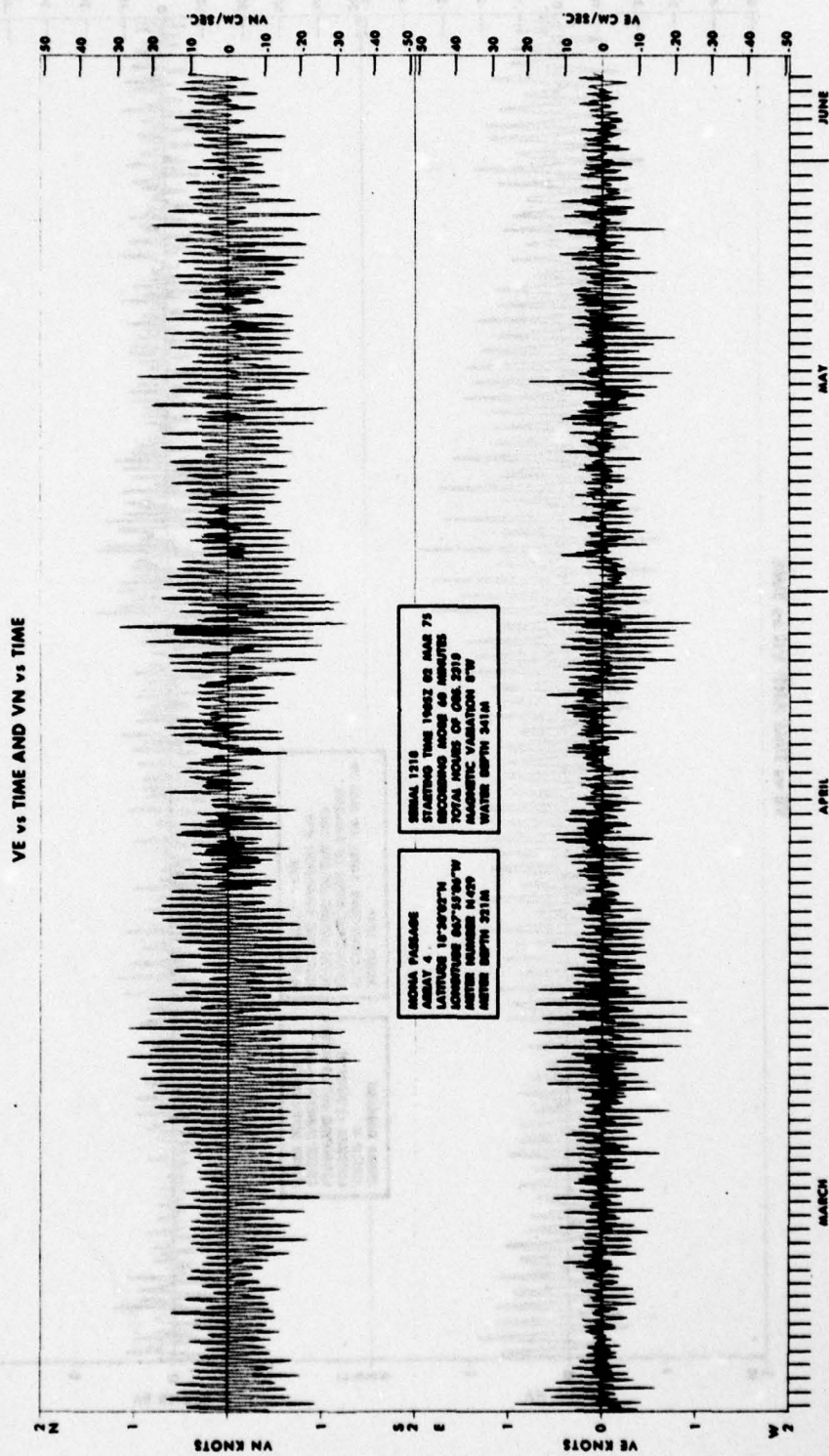
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4

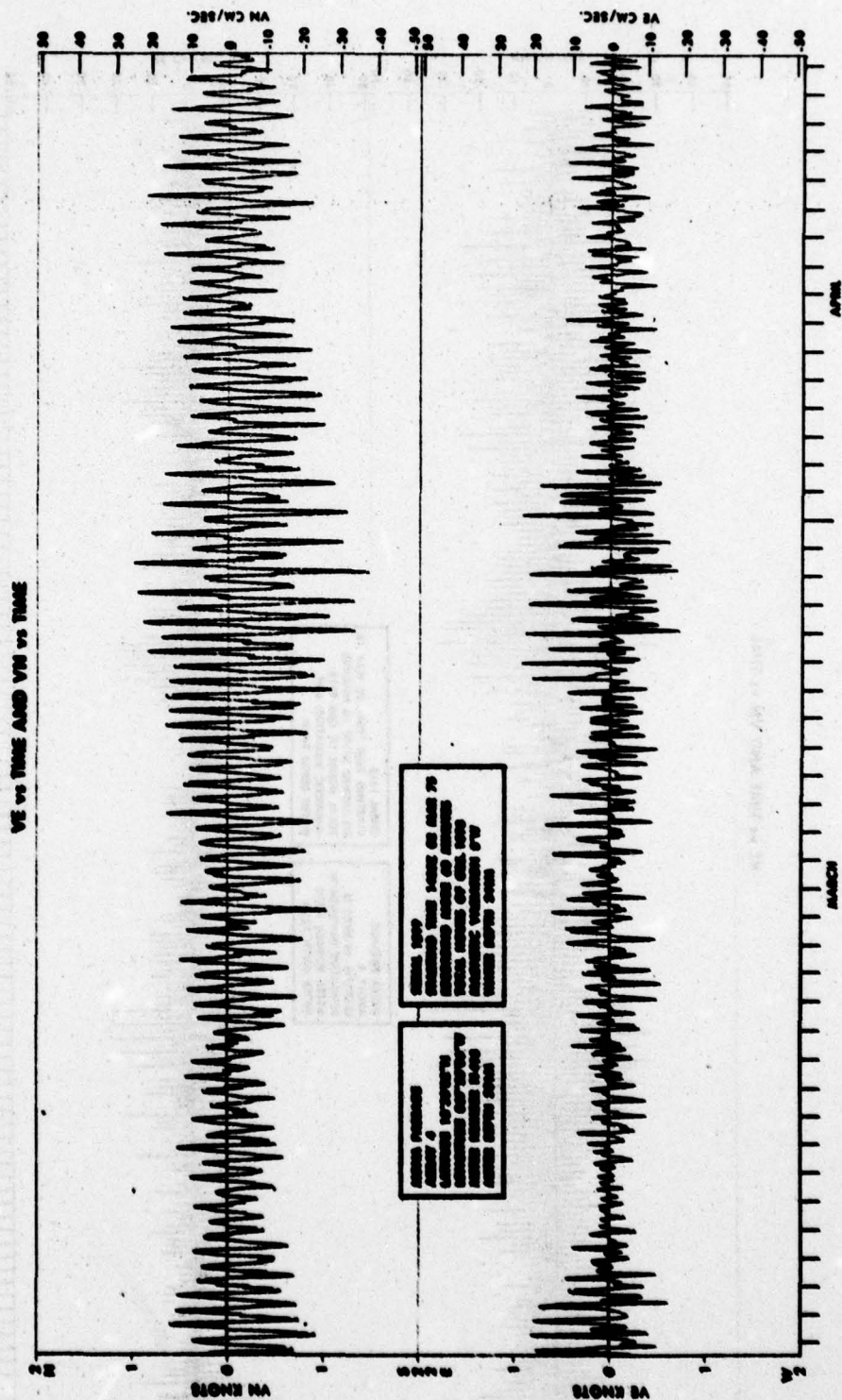


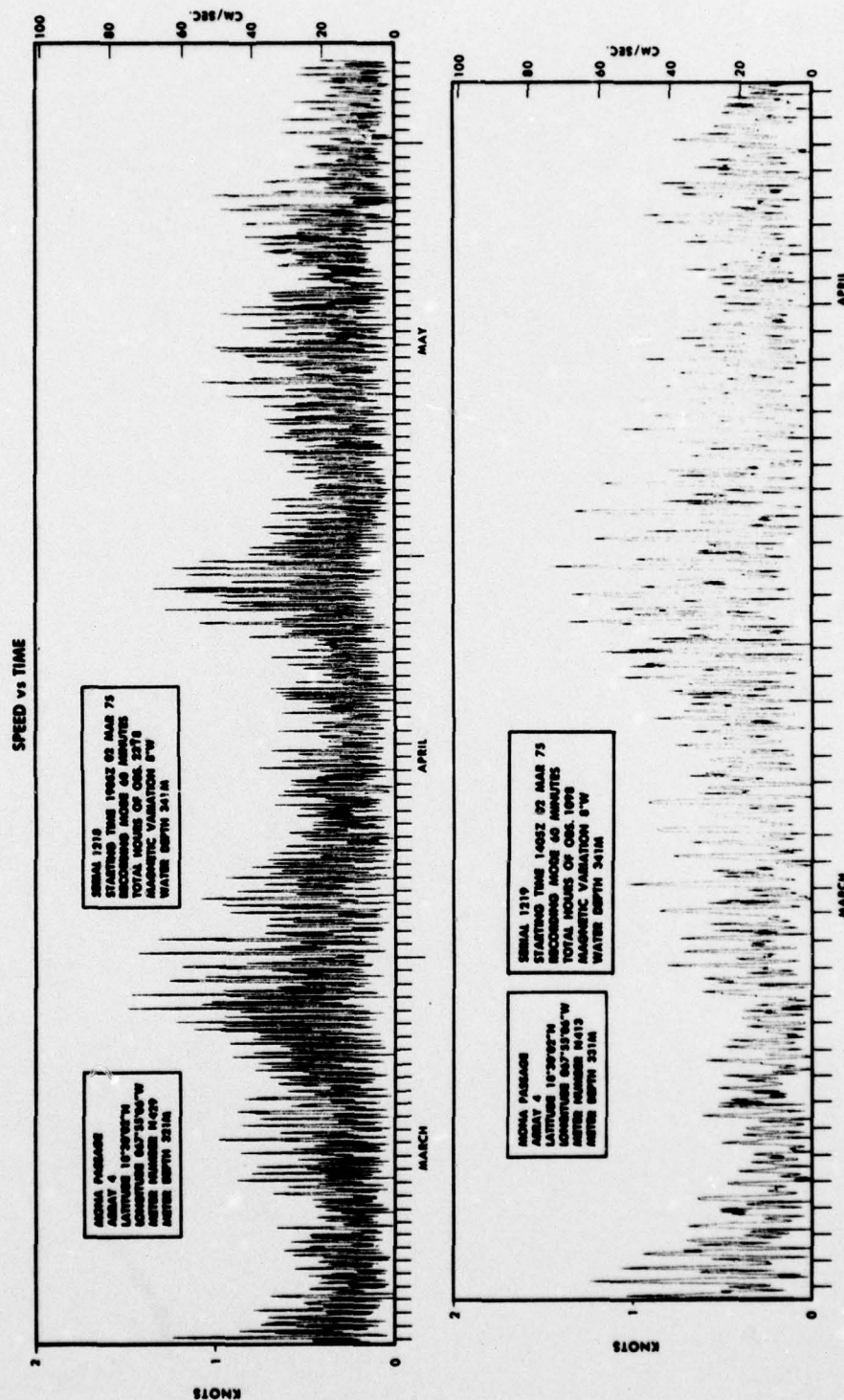
**CRUISE MONA PASS
STATION 4 TOP
METER N429
DEPTH 321 METERS**



**CRUISE MONA PASS
STATION 4 LOW
METER N413
DEPTH 331 METERS**







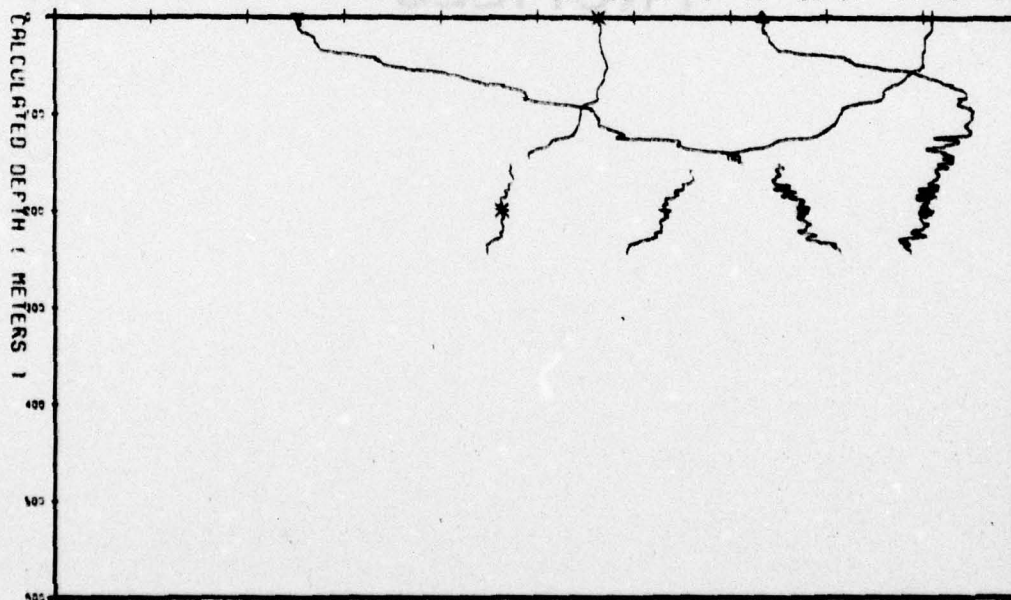
APPENDIX C

SVSTD PROFILES



FINAL PROFILE WILKES
 NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
 STATION 005001.

+ TEMPERATURE (DEGREES C)										
7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00	25.00	27.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Δ SALINITY (0/00)										
33.00	33.40	33.80	34.20	34.60	35.00	35.40	35.80	36.20	36.60	37.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
* CALCULATED S. VELOCITY (M/SEC)										
1480	1490	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
▽ SIGMA-T										
23.00	23.40	23.80	24.20	24.60	25.00	25.40	25.80	26.20	26.60	27.00



FINAL PROFILE WILKES NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517 STATION 001002

+ TEMPERATURE (DEGREES C)

7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00	25.00	27.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Δ SALINITY (0/00)

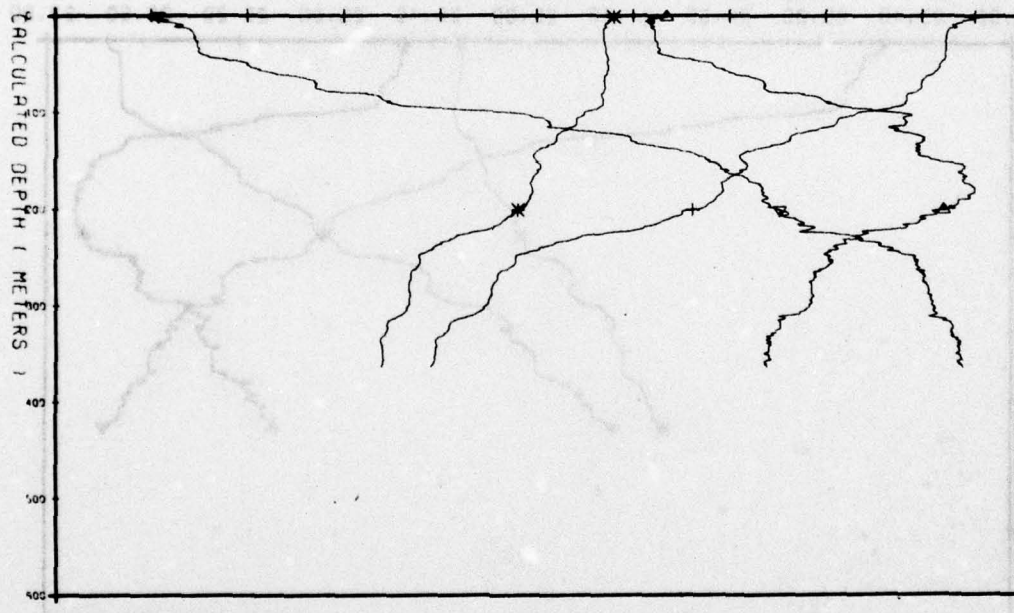
33.00	33.40	33.80	34.20	34.60	35.00	35.40	35.80	36.20	36.60	37.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

* CALCULATED S. VELOCITY(M/SEC)

1480	1490	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

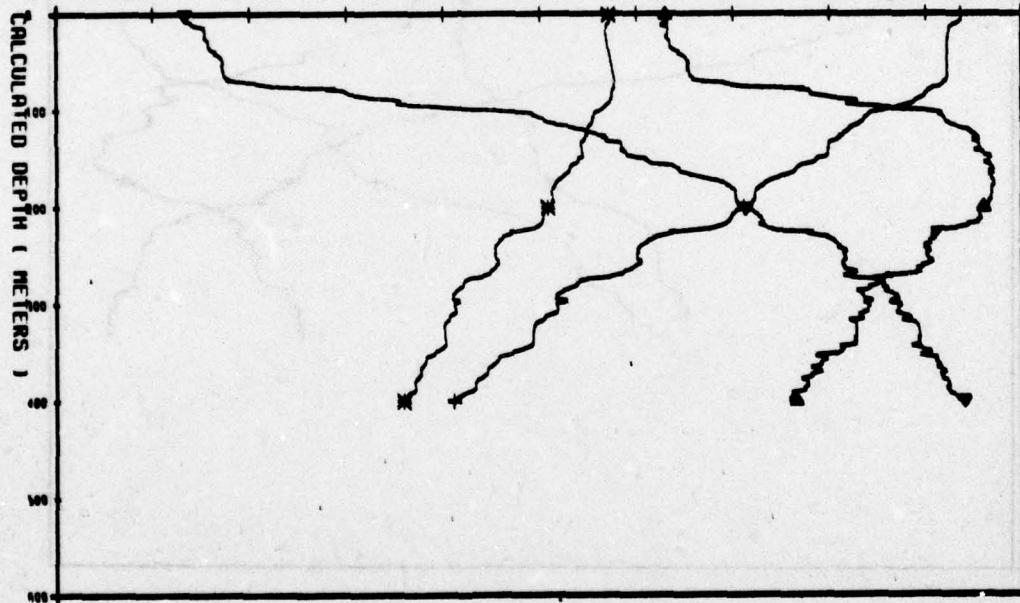
▽ SIGMA-T

23.00	23.40	23.80	24.20	24.60	25.00	25.40	25.80	26.20	26.60	27.00
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

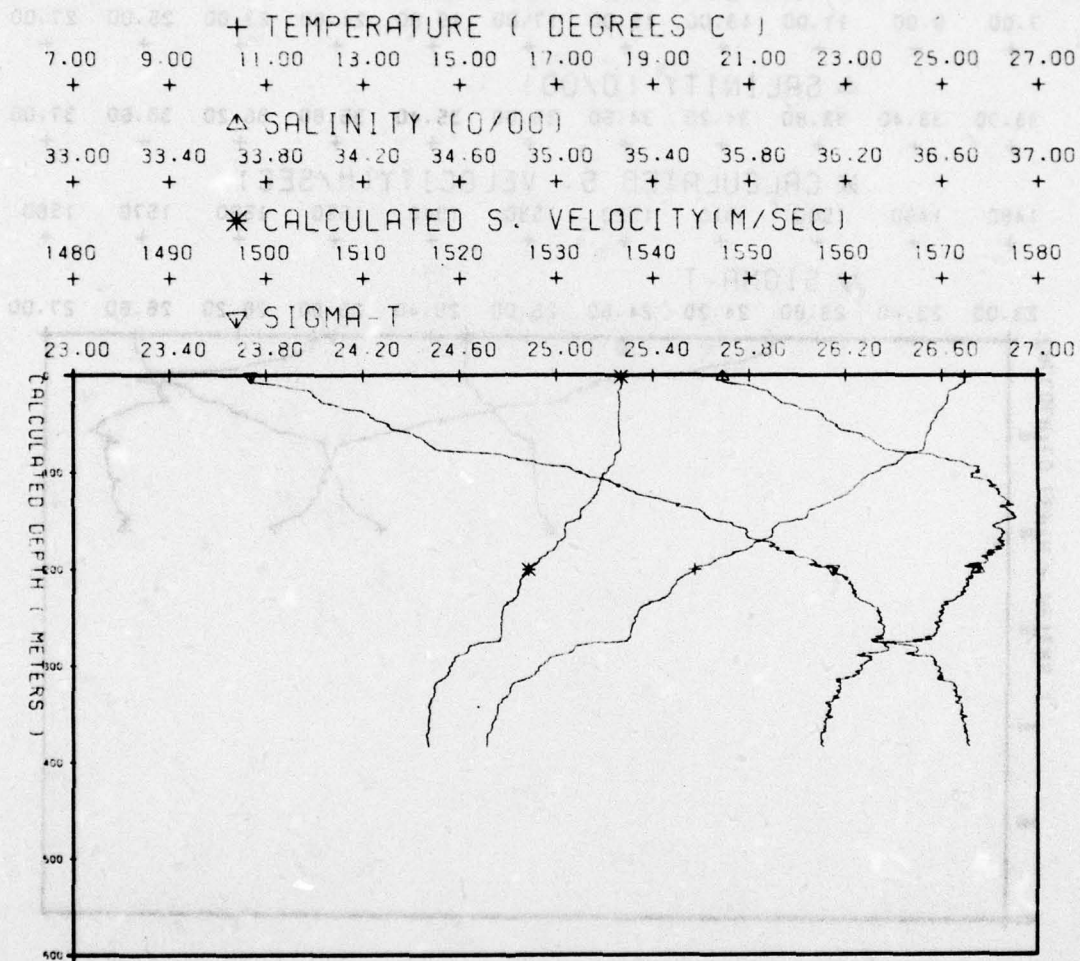


FINAL PROFILE WILKES
NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
STATION 002003

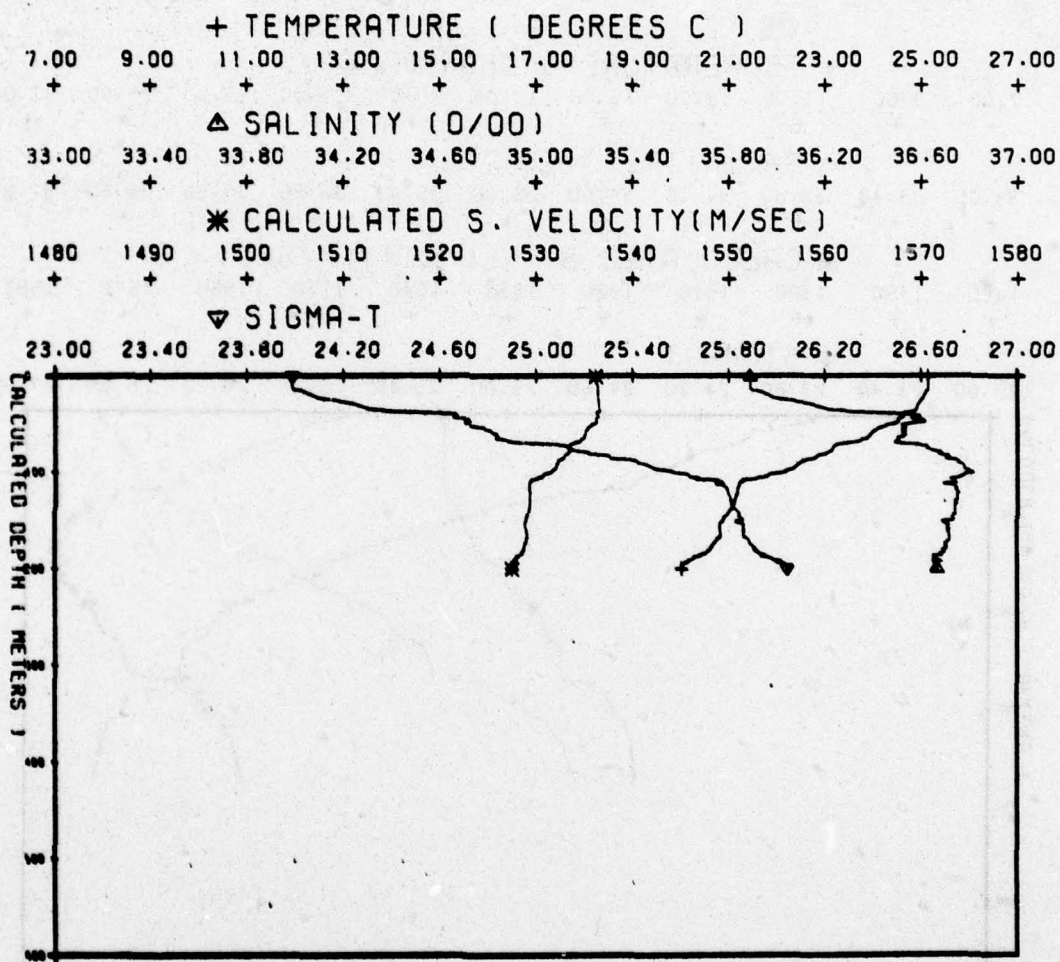
+ TEMPERATURE (DEGREES C)										
7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00	25.00	27.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Δ SALINITY (0/00)										
33.00	33.40	33.80	34.20	34.60	35.00	35.40	35.80	36.20	36.60	37.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
* CALCULATED S. VELOCITY(M/SEC)										
1480	1490	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
▽ SIGMA-T										
23.00	23.40	23.80	24.20	24.60	25.00	25.40	25.80	26.20	26.60	27.00



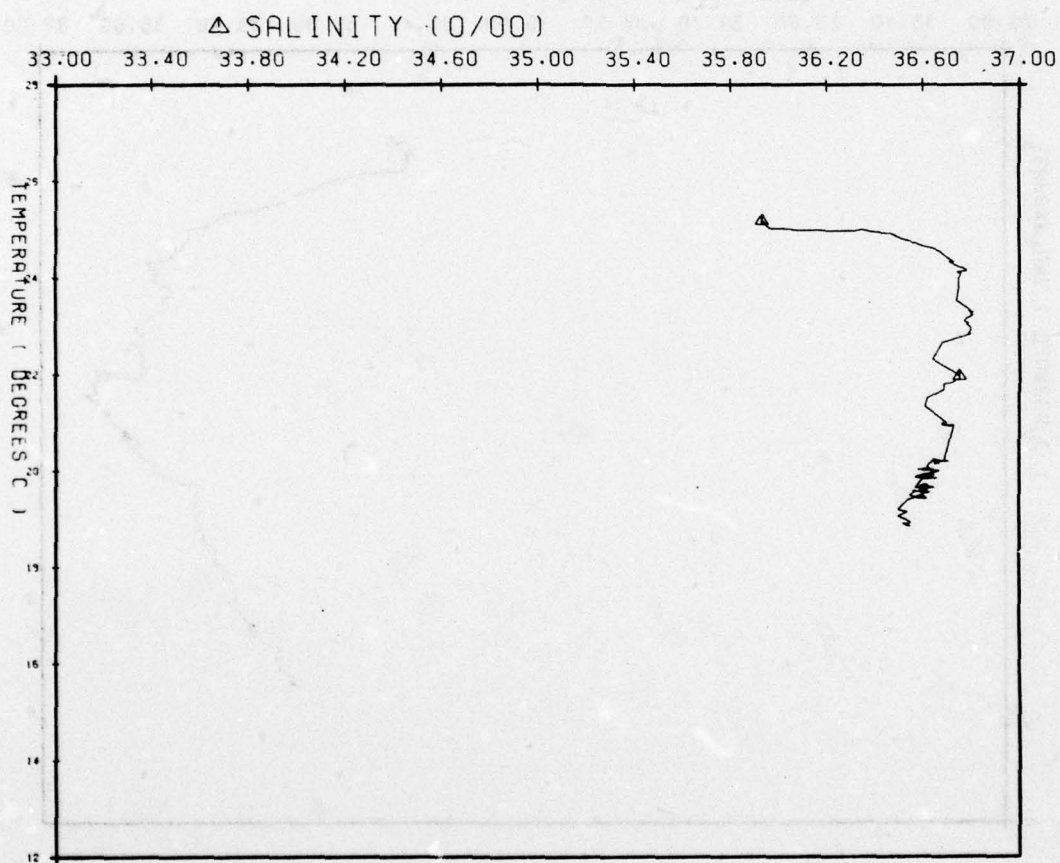
FINAL PROFILE WILKES
NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
STATION 003004



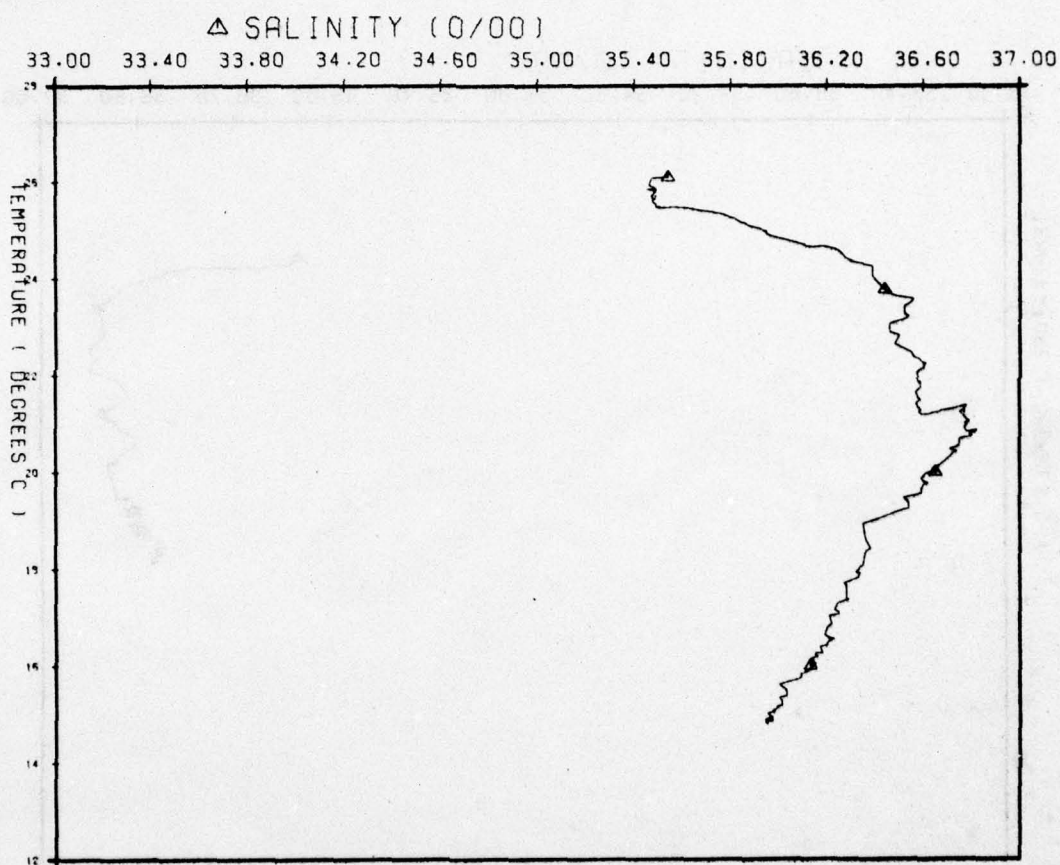
FINAL PROFILE WILKES
NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
STATION 004005



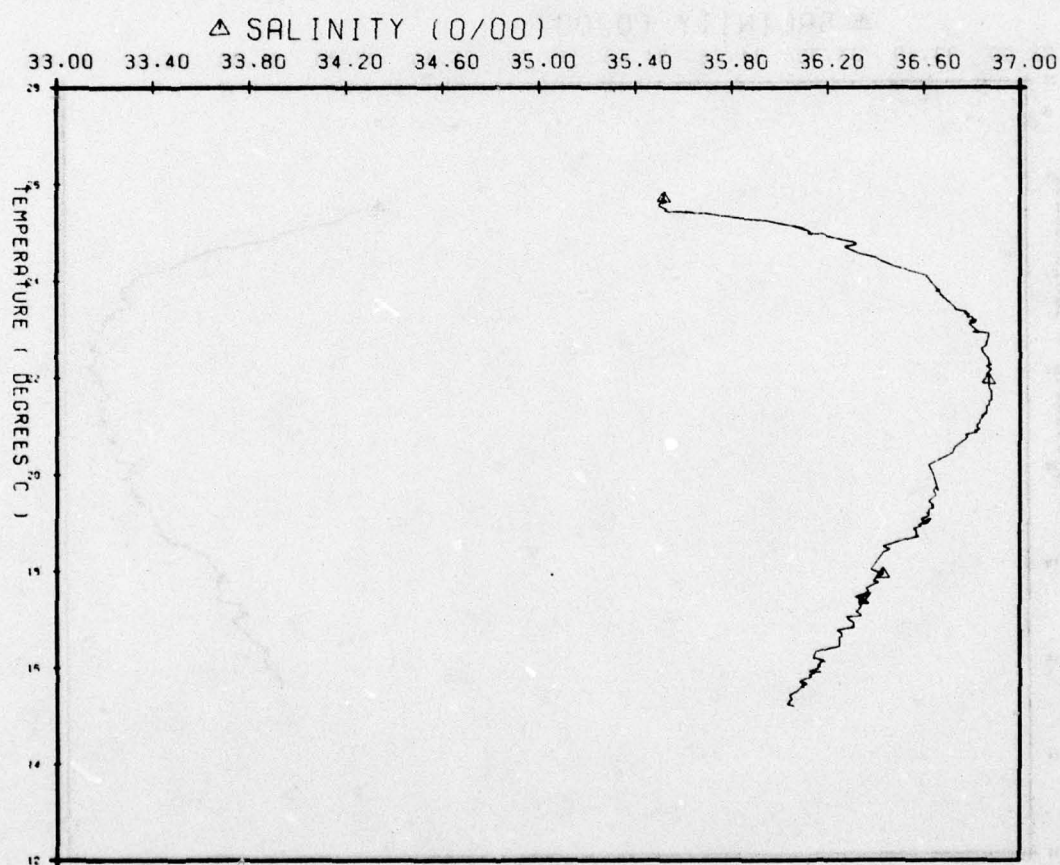
TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 005001.



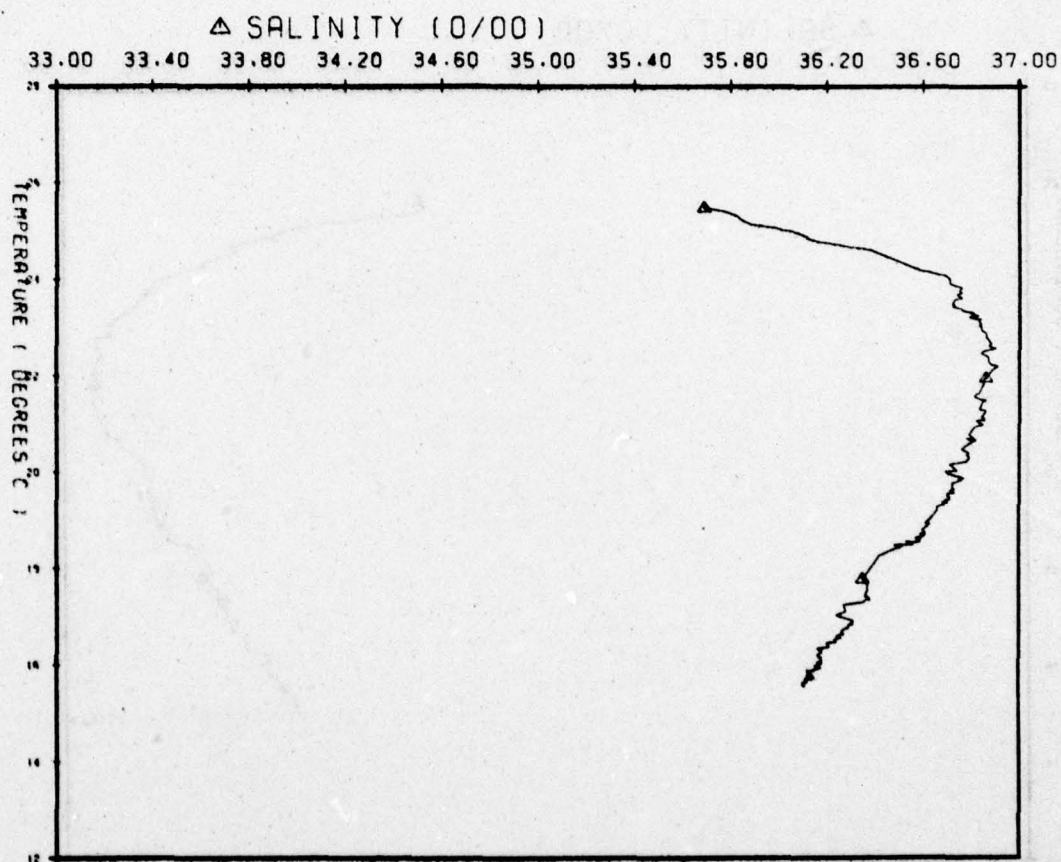
TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 001002



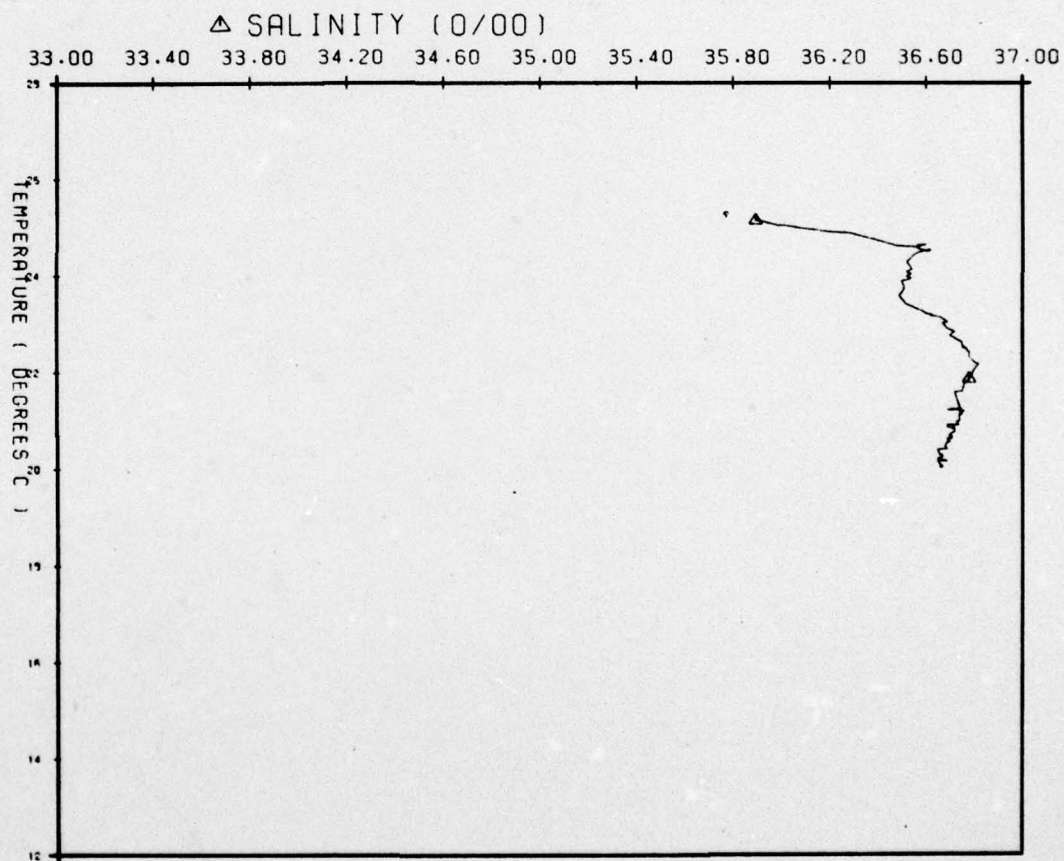
TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 002003



TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 003004



TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 004005



DISTRIBUTION LIST :

NAVOCEANO TECH. NOTE
NO. 3431-01-77

DATE: Apr 11 1977

SUBJECT: CURRENT METER DATA REPORT FOR MONA PASSAGE

[illegible]

REMARKS: